



PUBLIC NOTICE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUANCE OF AN Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Individual Permit to Discharge to Waters of the United States

The Permit and associated documents are available for review. For inquiries or to request copies of documents, contact:

DEC Permit Contact:

Allan Nakanishi, PE
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Water
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-4028
Allan.Nakanishi@alaska.gov

Public Notice Period:

Start: December 15, 2017
End: February 13, 2018

Permit Number and Name:

Draft AK0055867 – Donlin Gold Project

Proposed Project and Coverage

Donlin Gold, LLC (Donlin Gold) is proposing the development of an open pit, hard rock gold mine in southwestern Alaska, about 277 miles west of Anchorage, 145 miles northeast of Bethel, and 10 miles north of the village of Crooked Creek. The proposed project would be located in an area of low-lying, well rounded ridges on the western portion of the Kuskokwim Mountains.

The proposed Donlin Gold project would require approximately three to four years to construct, with the mine life currently projected to be approximately 27 years. The mine is proposed to be a year-round, conventional “truck and shovel” operation using both bulk and selective mining methods.

The APDES permit authorizes the discharge of treated wastewater to Crooked Creek from Outfall 001. The proposed facility is expected to operate at a net positive water balance thus necessitating the need to discharge excess water. The water treatment plant (WTP) will utilize oxidation, clarification and greensand filtration, with reverse osmosis (RO) as required. The WTP will have a combined maximum design capacity of approximately 4,750 gallons per minute (gpm), with an anticipated maximum treatment rate of approximately 4,500 gpm.

Mixing Zone: DEC does not propose a mixing zone for the discharge into Crooked Creek from the Donlin Gold Project facility.

Tentative Determination

DEC has tentatively determined to issue an APDES permit for the activity described above.

Public Meeting and Hearing

The Department is holding public meetings and hearings to review the draft permits and gather comment at the dates and times listed below. The public meetings will involve a brief presentations summarizing the draft permits and a question and answer period. The public hearings are intended to provide the public an opportunity to submit oral comments regarding the draft permit. Public may also submit written comments in lieu of or in addition to providing oral testimony at the hearing.

Public Meeting and Hearing Schedule

City	Date	Time	Meeting Location
Aniak ^a	January 17, 2018	5:30pm to 7:30pm	Yupit Piciryarait Cultural Center City of Aniak
Bethel ^b	January 23, 2018	5:30pm to 7:30pm	Bethel Community Center City of Bethel
Anchorage	January 26, 2018	6:30pm to 9:00pm	Atwood Conference Center 550 W 7 th Avenue Anchorage, Alaska 99501
a. The meeting in Aniak will be rescheduled to January 24, 2018 at the same time and location if weather prohibits the hearing on the scheduled date. b. The meeting in Bethel will be rescheduled to January 25, 2018 at the same time and location if weather prohibits the hearing on the scheduled date.			

Public Comments

Written comments or requests for a public hearing on the APDES draft permit must be submitted within **60** days of commencing this public notice. Please direct written comments to the attention of the appropriate contact at the address or email identified above. All comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the commenter and a concise statement of comment on the permit condition(s) and the relevant facts upon which the comment is based. Comments of either support or concern which are directed at specific, cited permit requirements are appreciated. Mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

DEC will consider all comments when making the final decision, and will respond to received comments in a Response to Comments document issued when DEC issues a final permit. The Response to Comments will be made available to the public.

Any interested person may submit a written request for a public hearing if no hearing has already been scheduled. A request for a public hearing shall state the nature of the issues to be raised, as well as the requester's name, address and telephone number. DEC will hold a public hearing whenever DEC finds, on the basis of requests, a significant degree of public interest in a draft permit. DEC may also hold a public hearing if a hearing might clarify one or more issues involved in a permit decision or for other good reason in DEC's discretion.

DEC will transmit the final permit, fact sheet (amended as appropriate), and Response to

Comments to anyone who provided comments during the public review period or requested to be notified of DEC final decision.

DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING
February 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. AST

Administrative Record

The APDES draft permit, fact sheet, and associated documents are available for public review at the ADEC offices located in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. Please contact the office of your choice to arrange for hard copies of the documents to be available for your review.

555 Cordova Street

Anchorage, AK 99501

907-269-6285

610 University Avenue

Fairbanks, AK 99709

907-451-2100

410 Willoughby Ave #303

Juneau, AK 99811

907-465-5300

If you would like to see any additional supporting technical documents, contact the Allan Nakanishi.

The documents are also accessible from the DEC website at:

<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wwdp/index.htm>

To receive email notifications about the APDES Program, including when permits are available to review, follow the link below to join the APDES email list.

http://dec.alaska.gov/water/npdes/npdes_email_list.htm

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need a special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact Natalie Wolfe at (907) 269-0291 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 30 days of publication of this notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.